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Special Announcements

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SUPREME COURT HEARS BELL-MCKAY CASE



The Supreme Court of Canada heard the case of Bell vs. McKay in Ottawa on November 4-5.

The case marked the first time the Ontario Human Rights Code was tested in the highest court in the land.

In November, 1969, the Ontario Court of Appeal set aside an earlier ruling by Mr. Justice C. D. Stewart of the Ontario Supreme Court prohibiting the Commission from proceeding with a Board of Inquiry into the housing complaint of Mr. Carl McKay, a black Jamaican, against Mr. K. S. Bell of Toronto.

Upon appeal, the Supreme Court of Canada agreed to hear the case.

After lengthy argument from both sides, the court took the case under advisement and a decision will be handed down at a later date.

Commission counsel were Mr. Frank Callaghan, Q.C., and Mr. E. Marshall Pollock of the Ontario Department of Justice.

BOARDS OF INQUIRY ANNOUNCED

Several Boards of Inquiry have been appointed under Section 13 of the Ontario Human Rights Code to conduct public hearings into complaints of alleged violations of the legislation.

A board has been called in Geraldton, in Northern Ontario, to hear the case of Mr. & Mrs. D.G. Tompkins and Mr. R. Michon (complainants) vs. Mr. & Mrs. Kyryliuk (respondents). The complainants allege they were refused rental of housing because they are Indians. Board chairman is Professor H. Krever of the law faculty at the University of Western Ontario. Commission counsel is Mr. E. Marshall Pollock.

Two boards have been appointed to sit in Ottawa. Miss V. Brown, a black West Indian, alleges housing discrimination by Mr. E. Blake. Both parties are from Ottawa. Dean R. S. Mackay, Q.C., head of the law faculty at the University of Western Ontario, is the board chairman. Commission counsel is Mr. John Sopinka of Toronto.

The other Ottawa board involves Mr. & Mrs. C. Paradise Jr. (complainants) of Buffalo, New York, who allege they were denied public accommodation at the Sleepy Hollow Motel in Arden in August. The respondent is Mr. G. Hewlett. Dean Mackay is the board chairman. Commission counsel is Mr. Sopinka.

A board has been called in Windsor to hear a case of alleged housing discrimination against Mr. J. Harris, a Canadian black complainant, by Mr. V. Bouzide, respondent. Board chairman is Dean W. Tarnopolsky of the University of Windsor Law School.



Board hearings are open to the public. Time and place of each may be obtained from the Commission.

PROFESSOR F. ELKIN NAMED TO HEAD REVIEW

York University sociologist Dr. Frederick Elkin has been named to head a review committee sponsored by the Ontario Human Rights Commission inquiring into the relationship between mass media advertising and visible minority groups.

Dr. Elkin is the former chairman of the sociology department at York and has published widely on advertising and the mass media.

He was on the research staff of the Motion Picture Association of America, 1947-50, and was a lecturer in cinema for the University of Southern California in 1948-51. Dr. Elkin also taught at L'Université de Montréal and McGill University before coming to York in 1964.

Dr. Elkin is the author of **Child and Society** (New York, 1960) and **The Family in Canada** (Ottawa, 1964), and has published widely in professional journals on mass media and advertising.

Dr. Elkin will shortly hear submissions from ethnic groups, ad and talent agencies, prominent entertainers, and major sponsors.

Interested parties are being asked to forward their requests to be heard to Commission offices in Toronto immediately.

COMMISSION PARTICIPATING IN INDIAN LIAISON COMMITTEE

A liaison committee comprising representatives of the Ontario Provincial Police, local Indian bands in the Algoma region, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Union of Ontario Indians and the Department of the Provincial Secretary and Citizenship has been set up in Sault Ste. Marie.

Purpose of the Committee is to permit a frank exchange of experiences and ideas and to open effective lines of communication between the provincial police and Indians in the area.

The first meeting was held November 4. Also participating were Chiefs of the Garden River Indian band, the Batchewana band, the Michipicoten band, the Spanish River band and representatives of the federal government's Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The next meeting will be at the Garden River Reserve. It will be open to all Indian band members.

If successful, the establishment of other liaison committees is anticipated throughout Northern Ontario.

McPHEE NAMED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

Robert McPhee has been named Assistant Director in a significant reorganization of the Commission's administrative structure. Mr. McPhee, formerly Chief of Field Services, will continue to supervise the operations of the Commission's four offices in addition to assuming added responsibilities. Another important change is the merger of the Age Discrimination Section and the Toronto regional office into one major unit. In charge of effecting the merger is George A. Brown, current administrator of the Age Discrimination Section and proposed head of the new unit.



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Mrs. Sandra Aiken has been appointed human rights officer in Toronto. Mrs. Aiken was previously staff development and staff relations supervisor in the Personnel Branch of the Ontario Department of Labour. She also has broad administrative experience in private industry and finance. Mrs. Aiken has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Western Ontario and has done postgraduate work at Harvard. Her primary responsibility with the Commission will be to develop human rights programs with provincial government departments.

Jo-Anne Jenkins, a 1970 graduate of the University of Windsor with a B.A. in sociology, has been appointed special projects officer to work in various communities in Western Ontario.

COMMISSION OPENS OFFICE IN SUDBURY

The Commission has opened an office in Sudbury. It is being staffed by human rights officer Cuyler Cotton and is within the jurisdiction of the Commission's northern regional office. In addition, the Commission is now providing part-time service on a regular basis to Kenora, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Chatham, and Hamilton. The opening of full-time offices in these centres is anticipated at a later date.

COMMISSION CASELOAD STATISTICS

Statistics compiled thus far for 1970 have shown a slight drop in the number of cases being handled by the Commission.

From January to August, 368 formal complaints were registered compared to 413 for the same period during the preceeding year.

An additional 103 informal complaints were filed, bringing the total caseload figure for the eight months to 471.

Of the 368 formal cases, 151 were filed under the Age Discrimination Act; 131 dealt with employment discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code; 56 with housing; and 21 with public accommodation.

The storefront office, Services For Working People, handled a total of 4,413 inquiries and cases in this period — a significant rise over previous months.

Blacks comprise the largest complainant group, accounting for about 60% of all cases. There was a major rise in complaints reported by Canadian Indians and Southeast Asians.

COMMISSION DIRECTOR NAMED TO INTERNATIONAL BODY

Commission Director Dr. Daniel G. Hill has been appointed to the executive committee of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

The organization is the professional body representing hundreds of commissioners and staff members in government human rights agencies at the federal, state/provincial, and local levels in the United States and Canada.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILMS AVAILABLE FOR SHOWING TO PUBLIC

The Commission has twenty-two films dealing with human rights and minority group themes available for showings to the public by staff personnel. Organizations and other interested parties can obtain a list of the films and arrange bookings with the Commission.

